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A Statement and an Appeal to the Friends of Education in America

BY

The Trustees of the Peabody
Education Fund

NEW YORK CITY, DECEMBER 25, 1911.

A STATEMENT AND AN APPEAL

To the Friends of Education in America:

The Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund in pursuance of the permission given them by the founder, George Peabody, having voted to close the trust and distribute the moneys remaining in their hands, make this statement and appeal:

In 1867 George Peabody made his first gift to education in the South. Since that time the Peabody Education Fund has co-operated with state and local authorities in building up state systems of public schools. In the first years of its administration it co-operated with towns and cities in establishing systems of public schools in centers of population; later it co-operated with states in establishing state systems of public schools; this done, it aided in establishing state normal schools in all the Southern States for the training of teachers; it is now giving aid to the development of state systems of rural schools, and toward establishing departments of education in the state universities.

Since 1875 the Peabody Fund has aided in maintaining the Peabody Normal College at Nashville, Tenn., as the central and leading normal school for the South. Now, in closing the trust, the Trustees have undertaken to found, as successor to this central normal school, the George Peabody College for Teachers—an institution designed to be the final memorial of Mr. Peabody's beneficent service to the South and to our common country, and to

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serve as the educational crown of the systems of schools which the Southern States have established and are maintaining. It is to be a college for the higher education of teachers for all the South. Articulating at every point with the state systems of schools and colleges, and supplementing them in a field all its own, its mission will be to send out into all these states men of trained ability to build up and administer state systems of education.

To this end the Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund have given to the George Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville the sum of \$1,000,000, concurrent with gifts of money by the State of Tennessee, the County of Davidson, and the City of Nashville, amounting to \$550,000 and sixteen acres of land, with buildings and appurtenances by the University of Nashville, which do not exceed in value \$250,000. These appropriations have been already paid over to the George Peabody College for Teachers.

Now, in the course of final dissolution, the Peabody Education Fund has offered to endow the College for Teachers with the additional sum of \$500,000, provided that within two years from November 1, 1911, the college raise the further sum of \$1,000,000. These are all the funds at the disposal of the Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund for such a purpose under Mr. Peabody's deed of gift with due regard to the claims of other objects of his bounty named by him. If the additional \$1,000,000 contemplated by the Trustees in this last gift can be raised it will establish the college on an adequate financial basis, but with less than this it cannot be done.



All experts on the subject know that such a college for the training of teachers is the greatest need of the South today. The Southern States, with a courage and self-sacrifice rarely if ever equaled, are devoting every year from 35 to 40 per cent. of the total amounts raised by them by taxation to the education of both races, wisely recognizing that this is their best hope for the future. But these sums thus raised must go to the public schools and state institutions. Much as this Central Teachers' College is needed to do a work which no state institution can do, the states are barred by constitutional limitations from contributing to its maintenance.

Under these circumstances the Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund have instructed us as officers of the Board to appeal in the name of the Trustees and on behalf of the George Peabody College for Teachers to the friends of education throughout the United States, to aid by every means in their power to raise the additional \$1,000,000 required. The alumni of the college have already pledged themselves to raise \$200,000 of the amount needed. We firmly believe that no man of means can put money to a nobler or more beneficent use than by helping the College for Teachers to raise this much needed sum.

Communications should be addressed to James C. Bradford, Chairman Executive Committee, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn.

JOSEPH H. CHOATE, *Chairman*,
SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Secretary*.

NEW YORK, December 25, 1911.